

# 1997-98 SESSION COMMITTEE HEARING RECORDS

Committee Name:

*Joint Committee on  
Finance (JC-Fi)*

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hrAC-EdR\_RCP\_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ \*\*

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ 97hrJC-Fi\_Misc\_pt203

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

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## **Northwoods Alliance Vision Statement**

Northcentral Wisconsin is a remarkable, beautiful region of sparkling rivers, bountiful lakes and untamed wildlife. Many people from around the Midwest and the nation travel here to enjoy the unique aesthetic, cultural and ecological features that make up the "Northwoods" experience. Although the Northwoods has changed dramatically since European settlement, its ecological integrity still captures the imagination of the casual visitor or long-time resident.

Unfortunately, past and present environmentally degrading activities threaten the ecological integrity that is the basis for the area's natural beauty and a sustainable economy. Plans for more roads, highways and excessive clearcutting of our recovering forests are fragmenting the landscape and depleting habitat for many species of animals and plants such as white cedar and yellow lady slipper. Mercury contamination of lakes and rivers is growing and the permitting of metallic sulfide mines poses a source of toxic pollutants for centuries to come.

In response to these threats, we need a well-informed citizenry committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between local communities and the land. In this spirit, the Northwoods Alliance is formed. Seven local environmental groups have formed in Northcentral Wisconsin since 1992. These groups are run almost exclusively by volunteers and work with shoe-string budgets.

## **Mission and Goals**

The mission of the Northwoods Alliance is to work together as a federation of organizations to protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystems of northcentral Wisconsin whereby the beauty, integrity and productivity of our lakes, rivers and forests are maintained in perpetuity. To realize this mission, we have identified the following goals:

- 1) To protect water quality and make sure all regional Outstanding Resource Waters, such as the Willow Flowage, receive protection against point-source pollution discharges, as recommended by the DNR staff and supported by a large majority of the public.
- 2) To encourage shared decision-making authority between natural resource agencies and the public for projects that have important ecological and economic impacts.
- 3) To maintain and enhance the native flora and fauna of the region.
- 4) To achieve an ecologically sustainable local economy based primarily upon the sustainable use of renewable resources.
- 5) To achieve a moratorium on metallic sulfide mining in northern Wisconsin until mining technology can unequivocally demonstrate the ability to prevent pollution. To support reuse, recycling and conservation in order to replace the demand for new sources of metals.
- 6) To uphold and respect the unique contributions that diverse interests and cultures provide to our local communities.
- 7) To educate the public and elected officials about threats to the environment and recommend solutions.

THE NORTHWOODS ALLIANCE MMB STATEMENT

MARCH 11, 1997

The Northwoods Alliance is a North Central Wisconsin Alliance of lake associations, hunting and fishing groups, tribal interests and concerned citizens united in our support of a mining moratorium until we are guaranteed Exxon and the mining industry won't contaminate our clean water.

It's all about the little people in little places like Rhinelander and Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

This is a coalition of diverse interests coming together on this issue from an economic and environmental perspective.

Exxon and the mining industry threaten our sustainable economy which is based on renewable resources. We don't want our fish contaminated with mercury. We don't want our groundwater polluted. We don't want to risk toxic spills of truckloads of cyanide. We don't want decades of acid drainage into our wetlands. We don't want boom and bust economies when we already have a thriving sustainable economy that welcomes soft industry.

A big concern of ours is mercury. CMC own pilot study estimates mercury in the pipeline discharge to be 20 times the current water quality based effluent limit. We already have fish advisories on the Wisconsin River because of severe mercury contamination. Mercury bioaccumulates. It does not go away. After years of cleaning up the river, why on earth do we now want to increase contamination?

We are concerned that if Exxon is allowed to dump minewaste from outside Oneida County into the Wisconsin River, it may prohibit future expansion of local industry and Rhinelander municipality which may need future allocation in a river currently fully allocated and rated HIGH for standards violations and impairments.

The Northwoods Alliance is co-hosting a Citizens Mining Forum Wednesday, March 12, 7 to 9pm at the James William Junior High School in Rhinelander.



## **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**

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**Written Testimony of Thomas F. George  
Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
for the  
Joint Finance Committee  
Wisconsin Legislature**

April 10, 1997  
UW/Marathon Center

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am honored to have the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the students, staff, and faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. As chancellor of UWSP, I wish to relay the overall importance of the Governor's proposed 1997-99 biennial budget for the UW System. UWSP supports the proposed budget, and we view Governor Thompson's budget as a positive step forward. In addition, we encourage both the Governor and the Legislature to work together to find additional resources on behalf of higher education.

My comments today will focus solely on flexibility issues impacting UWSP and the UW System. Flexibility issues of most concern to UWSP pertain to the retention and hiring of quality staff and faculty, as well as keeping this and future budgets targeted toward student success. William Wresch, chair of UWSP's Math/Computer Science department, who will also be testifying today, will focus his remarks on the need for increased state support for technology throughout the UW System.

Today I want to urge the Committee to support the Board of Regents' proposed four percent salary increase per year during the '97-'99 biennium. At first glance this appears self-serving, but in reality, there is unanimity among students, faculty, and staff alike that retaining and hiring the best staff and faculty available will go a long way in assuring the UW System's world renowned quality and excellence into the 21st Century.

A recent faculty loss at UWSP poignantly shows that UW System salary scales are no longer keeping pace with our peers. A mathematics/computing professor was, in essence, made an offer he could not refuse. A salary 50 percent greater than his current salary at UWSP could not be matched, and hence his resignation this past March. What is even more revealing and disconcerting is that his hire was in the public sector (federal agency) and not in the private sector. Legislators need to know that competition for UW System faculty and staff is coming from both the public and private sectors.

The good news is that if we act now, we can stop the loss of our top faculty and staff. With a projected 20-25 percent of faculty slated for retirement over the next few years, it is paramount that our Legislature take whatever steps are necessary to assure top quality staff and faculty throughout the UW System.

Granted, there are varying opinions on how to raise salaries within the System. But there is no disagreement between the concerned parties. Students, staff, and faculty all realize that salary competitiveness needs addressing now. UWSP would prefer that the Regents' proposed four percent per year salary increase come from general revenue monies. This is our first and most desired path to raising salaries to a competitive level. I am confident that the Legislature will find the political will and the means to take this desired course of action. If for unforeseen reasons general revenue monies cannot be found, then I would urge the Legislature to give the UWSP and the UW System the flexibility needed to meet this challenge. The Governor's proposed 105 percent tuition spending authority, as a measure of last resort, can make up the difference and in the short term, solve this dilemma.

I fully understand the arguments of keeping tuition costs down and this institution is doing all that it can to do so. One possible remedy to offset student tuition increases would be to expand WHEG grants. Preferably, the Legislature should combine increased general revenue monies, or give the Regents 105 percent tuition spending authority, while raising WHEG grants and their availability for students System-wide.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is the only four-year campus for thousands of students across many parts of central and northern Wisconsin. Our mission remains to give all students access to a quality learning experience while keeping tuition costs affordable.

For more than 100 years Wisconsin's Legislature has never wavered from the challenge to bring accessible, affordable, quality higher education to its citizens. But legislators, and all who work within the UW System, ought not be satisfied with past laurels. Wisconsin's higher education tradition is a solid foundation that requires constant maintenance and nurturing. However, in recent years Wisconsin's higher education needs have not been fully met. Surrounding states have been increasing public support for higher education while Wisconsin has actually cut its commitment to higher education. While fully understanding the need to keep our state's financial situation in balance, it is shortsighted and sets a dangerous precedent to continue this trend.

I urge the Legislature to remain true to the Wisconsin Idea -- an idea born out of a desire to create a world-class higher education system. Greater flexibilities for the UW System would go far in insuring the Wisconsin Idea. Flexibilities that include granting Regents the authority to determine annual salaries for faculty and academic staff; allowing higher education institutions to use surplus auxiliary revenues for student-related activities; permitting greater flexibility in promotion and recruitment of nonprofessional classified state employees; and granting 105 percent tuition spending authority for the Regents.

As chancellor of UWSP, I offer myself, staff, and faculty to answer any further questions on the Governor's proposed 1997-99 biennial budget or other higher education legislative matters. Thank you.

Good Morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee today. I would like to begin by introducing myself to you so that you can appreciate the diverse viewpoints that I hope to represent.

The main focus of my remarks today are in regard to the Wisconsin Technical College System, however, I bring a somewhat unique perspective that I hope will assist you in your deliberations concerning the new budget. My name is Dan Krcma, and I am an Instructor at Northcentral Technical College here in Wausau. My area of instruction is Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship. Now you may already recognize that given the discipline that I teach and the system in which I teach it, that I am somewhat of an anomaly. You see I teach Free Enterprise and Capitalism, and yet I do it from within a publicly supported institution. It gets better. In addition to my teaching profession, I am also a Small Business owner. I own a

very small construction equipment distributorship that I run with my brother. Because of my interest in Small Business I am a member of the National Federation of Independent Business and I serve on their Wisconsin leadership council. I must tell you that my personal political persuasion is that of both a fiscal and social conservative. It might surprise you then to know that I am also the President of the Northcentral Technical College Faculty Association. We are a registered collective bargaining unit and are affiliated with the Wisconsin Education Association Council (W.E.A.C.). I have held that position for the past year and I was just reelected to serve another year by a 62% margin of our membership. In my role as President of the Faculty Association, I have been serving as a member of the College Presidents Staff. I must tell you that I have a very healthy respect for the challenges in administering a local Technical College.



I hope you can see that given the multitude of roles that I fill I am somewhat of a paradox. A walking contradiction if you will. I believe that because of my unique perspectives I can share with you some thoughts that I hope you find useful in your deliberations. In my multitude of roles I struggle every day with trying to balance diverse and sometimes opposing viewpoints much as I'm sure you must do as elected representatives. I have a profound belief in the importance of a good education, and specifically a technical education that is practical in the workplace. To facilitate that education I believe that we must have good teachers who are dedicated to their students and knowledgeable of their discipline. Those teachers must be fairly compensated and have an environment in which to work that is conducive to the delivery of learning. As a Technical College System we must deliver to the business community graduates who are trained in the skills that business needs to compete in a world economy. And we

must do all this in an manor that makes maximum and efficient use of the financial resources that the taxpayers supply us with.

Let me begin by congratulating you for your efforts in trying to find places to control spending and reduce government. I know that yours is not an easy task, and often not a pleasant one either.

The job of limiting government growth is vital, however, if Wisconsin is going to continue to grow as a major competitor in the international community. I applaud your efforts and the efforts of Governor Tommy Thompson in maintaining tight fiscal control of the state budget and encourage your continued diligence in reducing taxes and regulations on Wisconsin's citizens. I must confess however that I am not here today to make your job easier.

Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to share with you a little about what I see happening in Technical education in the future. I believe that with the advent of communications technology our educational system is on the precipice of dramatic change. If you look in last night's edition of the Wausau Daily Herald you will see an advertisement for a cellular company promoting the ability of making local calls anywhere in Wisconsin. It is clear that the cost of communications is coming down. With the advent of the internet and instantaneous communications, our State, our nation, and our world is embarking on the kind of revolutionary change not seen since the invention of the printing press. Not only information, but education, can now be delivered anywhere in the world instantaneously. If you look on page three of this week's edition of U.S. News and World Report you will see an advertisement for "webtv" which is internet access over your television. Anyone with satellite or cable access TV can now be

on the internet. You no longer even need a computer. At NTC we are already delivering courses over the internet. With this new product, NTC will literally have a classroom in everyone's living room, and I mean **everyone's** regardless of where in the world they live. I could go on and on with examples of how technology will impact all of our lives in the future. Much brighter minds than mine, however, can give you these examples and their effects. My purpose today is to tell you that these changes are resulting in dramatic shifts in the way we educate or work force for tomorrow. It is these shifts in the changing educational environment that are straining our resources and hampering our ability to respond to the needs of Wisconsin industry. The Wisconsin Technical College System has a rich history of being the best, most innovative, most efficient, Technical College/Community College system in the nation. I can tell you if we are going to maintain that leadership role we must be flexible, we must be responsive to the needs of

industry and we must have adequate resources. We at NTC will take the leadership role in being flexible and in being responsive, we need your help with the resources.

It is my belief that nowhere in education do Wisconsin taxpayers get more “Bang for the Buck” than in the Technical College System. Recent trends have shown that our student head counts are continuing to rise, even though each student spends less time with us. This has the effect of driving up our costs relative to the full time equivalents that we produce. We have managed to absorb these costs over the last several years by going through the same budget tightening that you are doing now. We are now faced with the prospects of reengineering for the future, however, and we must not under capitalize or under invest in the competitive work force for that future. I’ve told you that I’m a teacher. I’ve told you that

I'm a business owner. I've mentioned that I often represent diverse interests, and I acknowledge that yours is not an easy task. I am asking that you support Wisconsin's best educational system with a 2.5% increase for the next biennium as an investment in the future of Wisconsin's work force. I know that some groups are asking for more. I know that the Governors budget has proposed less. Given my conservative nature, and my knowledge as a business man who knows the value of a good investment, I feel we must make this commitment for a highly trained productive business environment.



# Wausau School District

## Longfellow Administration Center

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Charles T. Skurka, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** David Damgaard, Wausau School District  
Director of Pupil Services

Berland A. Meyer  
Deputy Superintendent /  
Assistant Superintendent  
Program Development

**RE:** Transfer of School AODA Programs from DPI to DHFS (Assembly Bill 100/Senate Bill 77 - Governor's Budget)

Cherna A. Gorder  
Assistant Superintendent  
Business

As the Director of Pupil Services for the Wausau School District, I am adamantly opposed to the transfer of school AODA programs from DPI to DHFS.

Joyce C. Saldana, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent  
Human Resources

This proposal would dismantle the current AODA prevention programs in our school districts and communities in Wisconsin. The proposal would severely hamper the coordination of AODA programs with the other student services programs. DPI, not DHFS, administers school psychologist and social worker, school age parents, school-based AIDS prevention, pregnancy prevention, school health, school nursing, alcohol and traffic safety, family involvement in education, guidance and counseling, and children at risk programs. This proposal would splinter AODA services to the schools to the extent that programs would become ineffective and administratively burdensome.

Transferring the AODA program dollars would not only splinter AODA services to schools but would also negate the last ten years of school/community prevention efforts. These programs are education programs and are for the benefit of the students, and need to be administered by the educational agencies working with school districts. This proposal would prove confusing regarding grant administration, grant approval, and grant reporting. Why should FAST grants for Families and Schools Together be administered by an agency other than the schools? This is ridiculous!

In the Wausau School District, funding for the 1996-97 school year has provided for Student Peer Leadership and Peer Mediation Training at the elementary, middle and high school levels. School staff have been trained in AODA CORE and Group Facilitation. The training offers accurate knowledge about alcohol and drug abuse as it affects our youth and their families and it sensitizes us to the desperation, rigidity, hopelessness, and pain that many of our students (and adults too) feel because of some form of alcohol and drug abuse. Ideas are presented on ways of taking effective and supportive action to address alcohol and drug abuse as it presents itself in our school system.

Please do not take away the resources that make these and many other programs possible. They are the most effective tools we have to help our students lead healthy, drug-free lives. Do whatever it takes to not allow this proposal to be approved in the governor's budget. I believe you are an advocate for children, and this will hurt our kids!

JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE PUBLIC HEARING  
TESTIMONY BY RACHEL SPEAR, WHO BOARD MEMBER  
WISCONSIN HOMECARE ORGANIZATION  
APRIL 10, 1997

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today as a member of the board of the Wisconsin Homecare Organization (WHO). My name is Rachel Spear, and in addition to my WHO responsibilities, I am the Homecare Coordinator at Wood County Home Nursing in Wisconsin Rapids. Prior to my supervisory position, I was a staff nurse at Wood County Home Nursing for 15 years.

As a county home care agency, we have seen an increase in the number of MA patients referred to us over the last 1-2 years due to private agencies reducing the number of MA patients they can and well serve. We are a skilled care agency and had a Medicare census of 92% of our caseload in 1995. It has now dropped to 82% due to private home care agencies being more willing to admit the Medicare patient vs the MA patient. County home care agencies do not have the option of refusing a patient because of their reimbursement source. The \$11.05/hr reimbursement for PCW does not cover the wages of our PCW's because they are established by negotiated wage agreements. Therefore, to the extent that we must accept MA patients on our service, we must look for other resources to cover these losses. County Health Departments are continuing to close their home care agencies because County boards are less willing to subsidize home care today. Without an increase in reimbursement for MA patients,



Page Two/Rachel Spear

our agency and other county agencies may not be in business much longer either.

You need to know that MA reimbursement for home care has not increased since 1989-90, yet the CPI during the same 7 years has increased 27.2%. As recently reported, home care agencies are also losing on the reimbursement of other disciplines. This applies to county agencies as well. A skilled nursing visit costs about \$5.55 more per visit and a home health aide is an additional \$3.43 per visit. On average, according to a 1997 survey, Wisconsin's home health providers lose \$10,869 per month on services to Medicaid patients.

As a result of the great discrepancy between home care MA reimbursement and CPI-U cost of living adjustments, all home care agencies have lost substantial market power in recruiting and maintaining the qualified nursing and personal service workers necessary for the provision of care. This results in the loss of access to high quality home care for the patients. These same workers can and do earn a higher wage in the fast food industry or as retail clerks.

At the same time, the 1% increase for MA home care proposed by Governor Thompson would increase reimbursement for skilled nursing by about 75 cents per visit and 38 cents for a home health aide visit. The increase for a PCW is only 11 cents an hour. This doesn't come close to the costs of providing these services.

Page Three/Rachel Spear

In the past, the losses from Medicaid could be covered by revenues from other pay sources. But managed care and changes in Medicare have cut off those sources. Home care-givers and home care agencies are now truly being forced to decide between going bankrupt or getting out of the home care profession. That is a terrible option, particularly for the homebound and the taxpayer.

Times have changed, and the current rate is no longer adequate. Home care agencies simply cannot stay in the home care Medicaid business under the current or proposed reimbursement rate. If the private agencies cannot afford to see MA patients and the county agencies go out of business, the result is the opposite of the desired outcome. Without home care participation, nursing home and hospital stays are extended with a significant increase in state costs and expenditures from taxpayers.



## NORTHWOODS HI-RIDERS

Snowmobile Club • Speed Run Specialists  
Solberg Lake • Phillips, Wisconsin



To Whom It May Concern,

April 8, 1997

We the undersigned members of the Northwoods Hi-Riders of Phillips, WI., see attached, need and want the 1.8 million dollars from the general purpose revenue to help fund our Wisconsin, Price County Included, snowmobile trails. We encourage the legislature to adopt this proposal.



## NORTHWOODS HI-RIDERS

Snowmobile Club • Speed Run Specialists  
Solberg Lake • Phillips, Wisconsin



### FOR 1% SOLUTION

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Don Redwood	N10531 SOLBERG LK RD PHILLIPS, WI.	715-339-3443
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Wendy Redwood	N10531 E Solberg Phillips, WI	715-339-3443
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Northcentral Technical College  
Instructional Resources

**Response to Joint Finance Committee on 1997-99 Biennium Budget**

April 10, 1997  
University of Wisconsin - Marathon County

Today I would like to direct my comments in relation to the proposed **Project TEACH - Technology for Educational Achievement In Wisconsin.**

I am Barb Cummings, a Team Leader for Instructional Resources at Northcentral Technical College. For the past 12 years, I have been very involved in the development and coordination of *Distance Education* and *Information Technology* for our college and for the Wisconsin Technical College System. Our college has worked in collaboration with the K-12 schools, University of Wisconsin Campuses, and other technical colleges in the development of Regional Interactive Television (ITV) Distance Education Networks. Each of these networks provide a video system for communicating and sharing instructional resources within a region of the state. Examples are Central Wisconsin Educational Network (CWETN), Wisconsin Overlay Network for Distance Education Resources (WONDER), and Wausau Area Narrowcast Users Consortium (WANUC). Each of these networks have been built to share instructional resources at all levels.

The development of a distance education network requires:

- ♦ extensive planning (an average of three years per network)
- ♦ communication
- ♦ technical expertise
- ♦ resource sharing
- ♦ personnel time

Presently, the Wisconsin Education Communications Board has very successfully provided staff to assist in the planning and development of these regional networks. The WECB staff have facilitated collaboration, technical assistance, internetwork communication, and interagency cooperation. A WECB advisory board, Distance Education Technology Interagency Collaboration (DETIC) has provided a monthly forum to address issues, disseminate information, and employ continuous improvement strategies and techniques for telecommunication technologies. The WECB staff provide leadership for a Technology Standards Forum and a Distance Education Network Directors group that is represented by a cross section of educational entities - UWs, WTCS, K-12, and health care institutions. As an end user of these services, I feel these activities have helped Wisconsin in the development of distance education networks.

Project TEACH is an excellent plan for supporting the integration of Information Technology into the K-12 schools. The project provides the funding component for both the technical planning and implementation and professional development training for the faculty and staff. The staffing positions that have been recommended to support this project will be reallocated from four

positions of the WECB that presently support distance education initiatives in the state. The role and function of the newly created positions will leave a void in the state.

The proposed positions will be used to provide technical assistance for the K-12 school and personnel for the allocation of technology funds.

I believe it is an oversight in the development of Project TEACH that staffing has not been identified to provide the continued leadership for collaboration and planning for interconnectivity of regional ITV distance education networks. The strength of the Wisconsin distance education networks has been the interconnectivity and partnering of the educational institutions. In the present format of Project Teach there is no incentive for the K-12 institutions to partner or plan interconnectivity with other educational entities. The Technology Block Grants, Educational Technology Infrastructure Loans, and the Universal Access of Telecommunication Lines apply only to the K-12 system.

There also needs to be clarification between distance education and information technology. They both utilize telecommunication infrastructure but each have different roles in supporting learning. They are not synonymous but support each other in providing access to learning resources.

Project TEACH places emphasis on computer based technology and the related infrastructure for accessing the Internet. Planning and developing an infrastructure to support distance learning is not part of the present Project TEACH package.

I urge the Joint Finance Committee to incorporate a plan to integrate the support staff needed to continue and expand Wisconsin investment in its networks of interactive television (ITV) and videoconferencing networks. We have 28 regional networks up and operating and 8 networks that are in the planning stages. These networks involve 250 school districts, 14 technical colleges, 17 University of Wisconsin campuses, and 89 other organizations (hospitals, DNR, Department of Corrections, etc.). We need to continue to support the sharing of instructional resources planning for interconnectivity, development of technical standards, and interagency cooperation.

Thank-you for this opportunity to address your committee.

April 10, 1997

Testimony Presented at public hearing of the Joint Committee on Finance on the 1997-1998 Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and Guests:

My name is Robert Greenlaw. My home is in Marshfield, WI. I am a physician, retired from practice of Radiation Oncology, a subspecialty in the field of cancer management..

I am here today on a mission of cancer prevention through tobacco control brought about by a sharp increase in excise tax as proposed by the Legislative SubCommittee on Minors and Tobacco. I shall give you a sound basis for voting for and promoting the suggested increase in excise tax.

During 40 years of my oncology practice I was responsible for the care of over 12,000 patients with cancer. Of this group of patients, over 5,000 had cancer induced and caused by the use of tobacco. The rate of cure of cancer when caused by tobacco is poor. 3,800 of these patients, all people I came to know quite thoroughly, died unnecessarily. Travelling the path from health to death was a miserable and heart wrenching journey for these patients and their families. In Wisconsin, there are over 8,000 people who make this trip each year.

Over and over, in these 40 years, patients with cancer would tell me, *"If only we knew what causes cancer, we could prevent it from occurring."* The fact of the matter is that we do know what causes over 30% of all cancer and what causes about 40% of those cancers which regularly are very difficult to cure. The use of tobacco is the cause, well supported with evidence, agreed to by the Liggett Group( Chesterfields and Lark) recently and known clearly by every one of us. The facts are, non-smokers don't develop these kinds of cancer except under rather unusual circumstances.

Quitting smoking is very difficult to do. The success rate, when the attempt is unassisted, ( cold turkey) is on the order of 17%. Alternative systems to deliver nicotine to the addict may enhance the success rate. Essentially everyone I have talked to on this matter, after going through the withdrawal, volunteers that it is better never to start than to wrestle with the terrible problem of addiction. **Don't start.**

This is where the Joint Committee on Finance has an opportunity to spare from premature death up to 8,000 voters and taxpayers a year, human beings with feelings.

Adults rarely make a decision to take up smoking. Smoking is taken up before high school, by youth, in their early teens. Their reasons are fuzzy: it may be an act of daring, the "cool" thing to do, an act of rebellion, augmentation of a poor self image or a desire for a low birth-weight infant (easier labor) in a pregnant teen. Whatever the motivation,

addiction occurs very early and termination of smoking is not an easy, voluntary act. The young smoker is hooked, and it only grows worse.

Obviously, the proper course is to prevent the uptake of smoking. The thinking commonly expressed to me has been, do a better job in education and we won't have the problem. *It is not that simple.* Great effort has been made in the curriculum of schools, K-12, and youth are well informed of the hazards of smoking. In spite of this informational background in the brain of every youthful smoker, some 30% of all high school seniors in Wisconsin are regular smokers. Youth have their own sense of time, immortality, and risk-taking.

The one thing that has been shown to have profound impact on the rate of uptake of smoking with youth has been cost. The cash required to get cigarettes. This where the Joint Committee plays such an important role. The 5-cent-a-pack proposal of the Governor may help slightly, but those who understand the scene know it will need to much greater than this to have the desired impact. In WLCS 0125/2, a draft of a bill recommended by the Sub-Committee on Minors and Tobacco, the recommendation is for an *increase in the tax per pack of cigarettes from 44 cents to 72 cents in July 1997 and to 81 in July 1998.*

At last, this proposal, strongly supported by the public, together with the three other recommendations of the Sub-Committee, stand a chance of changing the scene. This is a part that can be done only by the Legislature.

The 12,000 patients I saw would have preferred not to have had cancer than to be living with the chance of failure of treatment, after having the diagnosis made. *It is better not to have cancer.*

On behalf of all non-smokers, the former smokers, those who wish to quit smoking, and the new echelons of youth each year who succumb to the dazzling invitations (advertising) to take up smoking, and those who care for cancer patients and their families, I urge you to act favorably on proposal to raise excise tax by 28 cents per pack 1 July 1997 and again 1 July 1998.

I realize quite fully the negative impact this may have in terms of the politics of tobacco in Wisconsin. Tobacco interests are heavily involved with our economy; many of our manufacturing companies are subsidiaries of tobacco conglomerates; many of the products we eat, drink and give to others are produced by these subsidiaries. Political campaigns are supported by these subsidiaries in addition to the support directly from tobacco. We know that money talks. The cynic may say, *we have the best laws money can buy.*

Again, I urge you to support the proposed excise tax for the improvement of health through tobacco control.



I would like to speak on behalf of Wisconsin Public Radio.

We should be proud that our state has the oldest continuously operating radio station in the U.S.A. WHA in Madison has been providing Public Radio programming since 1917! They are celebrating 80 years of service this year!

The men & women of U.W. Physics Lab. started research in radio propagation in 1902! The physics department was the first to make vacuum tubes for broadcasting.

WI was the first state to establish a radio network linking all state residents through instructional programming! And WI was one of the first states to develop an FM public broadcast system network.

Many of the early radio pioneers of radio station WHA worked long hours with little or no pay. We owe it to these early trail blazers to take care of their legacy with our support so that we can pass this treasure on to our children.

On a personal level my family and I enjoy the programming of Wisconsin Public Radio that we are able to hear in our home, at work, and traveling through out the state in our car. Where ever we go we can stay tuned to WPR.

I especially enjoy the classical music that comes to us uninterrupted, with out commercials. I enjoy the news and weather updates given every hour. I especially enjoy Simply Folk with Judy Rose, one can enjoy music and a taste of culture from all over the world. To The Best Of Our Knowledge offers insights into topics that are interesting, informative, educational and entertaining. All Things Considered has the best news programming with in depth reporting and analysis to help me keep up with current events. It is Journalism at its best!

I belong to the WPR association and am an active volunteer. I enjoy working on the pledge drives and the annual auction on the local level. I feel privileged to know and work with Dean Kallenbach, Rick Reyer, Gil Halsted and Alleshia their secretary.

I support Public Radio and I think it deserves your support as well. Please do not cut the level of tax support that has been purposed. Wisconsin Public Radio is treasure. It is akin to a national landmark, a monument. It should be preserved and cherished.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Rose". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Rose

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE FINAL REPORT OF  
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN INTERAGENCY LAND USE COUNCIL

- WHEREAS,** Marathon County has invested valuable time and resources on the implementation of a geographic information system (GIS) and land records modernization; and
- WHEREAS,** the Governor's Interagency Land Use Council (ILUC) has made certain recommendations to improve land use planning in the State of Wisconsin; and
- WHEREAS,** these certain recommendations may have fiscal and programmatic impacts to Marathon County; and
- WHEREAS,** the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) as it currently functions provides a positive benefit to the citizens of Marathon County through providing grant dollars and retained fees for important land records modernization projects, and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby ordain as follows:

1. To support the Final Report of the ILUC under the condition that costs associated with implementation of the recommendations of the ILUC be fully funded by the State of Wisconsin independent of the WLIP monies (both grant funds and retained fees).
2. To support the local government focus of the current WLIP which allows Marathon County to fund local projects that are of a high priority.
3. To request that the WLIP Aid to Local Government grant program be assessed and recommendations be made for streamlining the grant process, as well as, the reporting requirements.
4. To direct the Marathon County Administrator to forward a copy of this Resolution to all appropriate State Officials.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1996.

Toni Blum

George J. Hall

Paul H. Barker

Elmer B. Bock

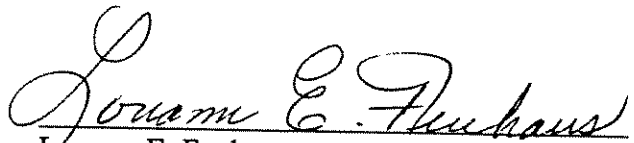
Les Martens

Cyril Adel

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 )SS.  
COUNTY OF MARATHON )

I, Louann E. Fenhaus, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-98-96 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Annual meeting which was held December 17, 1996.

S E A L

  
Louann E. Fenhaus  
Marathon County Clerk

My name is John Young I am the Student Association President here at The University of Wisconsin Marathon County. I would like to thank the Joint Finance Committee for this opportunity to testify on behalf of students.

I would like to stress the fact that I am in favor of the 4% faculty pay plan in the budget. It is imperative that we pay our faculty a competitive wage if we desire to remain a top notch university, however, this pay plan must be entirely funded by the legislature through the budget and not by the Board of Regents through the 105% flexibility. For years Wisconsin has pitted students and faculty against each other by tying pay increases to tuition increases. The students and faculty need to be a force working together, and the 105% flexibility divides the two groups even more. Students now find themselves accepting of the old system where for every 1% of pay increase tuition is raised .7%, only because the alternative is that for every 1% increase in the pay plan under the 105% authority tuition must rise 2%. Students are opposed to granting this authority to the Board of Regents. We cannot balance this budget on the backs of students.

In addition I urge the committee and the legislature to increase funding for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant at the same rate as tuition is increased. During the last biennium the WHEG grant saw no increase, while tuition was raised 6% in 1995-96 and 5% in 1996-97. In this budget the WHEG increase is slated at 2% in the first year and 3% in the second, once again students are losing ground.

Wisconsin must renew its commitment to higher education by fully funding the University of Wisconsin. We cannot limit access by continually raising tuition and lowering the percentage of available aid. We cannot devalue a University of Wisconsin degree by lowering the expertise of our faculty, which we will do if they are not compensated fairly among their peer groups at other institutions. The Board of Regents Study of the UW System in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century states "The UW System institutions have been nurtured to maturity by an unflinching faith that education is the best investment the state can make in itself." We cannot waver on this belief now, we cannot overlook the UW System and the investment in Wisconsin's future. Do not change Wisconsin's priorities, I wonder how many budget initiatives are truly an investment in making Wisconsin a better place, but I know that the University is such an investment. I urge the legislature to reward those who have the drive to better themselves by working towards a University education, fully fund the University of Wisconsin, do not limit access, and set Wisconsin in the right direction.

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance.

April 10, 1997

Jessica Hussin

2525 College Ave., Stevens Point, WI, 54481

RE: *Opposition to Differential Tuition*

My name is Jessica Hussin and I am a student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. I am also the President of the Student Government Association. I speak to you today on behalf of the students at UWSP. Many of the students at Stevens Point have chosen to attend an institution of higher education within the UW System because it has the tradition of offering quality education that is affordable and accessible. However this accessibility and affordability has been decreasing due to constant tuition hikes. The differential tuition flexibility in the governor's proposal worsens this problem.

The tuition flexibility that the Governor's budget proposes, allows the universities within the UW-System to raise tuition beyond what is mandated. This differential tuition serves as a possible solution for raising funds that are not provided through GPR dollars. For example, differential tuition may be targeted at initiatives such as faculty salary increases and academic advising. Both of these were originally asked for from the state by the UW-System. Both were denied by the governor's proposal. In other words, differential tuition places the burden of funding for our public institutions of higher education on the backs of the students.

This increase in tuition through differential tuition is detrimental to UW students, to our universities, and ultimately the state of Wisconsin for a variety of reasons.

Let me start with how this additional increase hurts students. First of all, any increase in tuition prevents some financially disadvantaged students from receiving a college education. Education is not a privilege reserved for the wealthy; education is a right that should be available to all regardless of the student's financial situation. Secondly, we need to understand how this could disadvantage students in certain areas of the state. If a student with a family lives in Plover and wants to go to college, their choice, due to demographics, would be UW-Stevens Point. However, if the only comprehensive universities they can afford are UW-Green Bay and UW-River Falls, she will probably not be able to go to college. In this realistic scenario, differential tuition would have allowed UW-Stevens Point's tuition to be at such a high level, that this student couldn't afford to go. It is very unlikely that she could move her family to Green Bay or River Falls to go to school there.

Differential tuition allows competition between sister UW-institutions by encouraging tuition wars. We have seen this beginning to happen already. UW-Eau Claire implemented a tuition add on to fund certain incentives on that campus through differential tuition. As soon as other UW campuses heard about this, they began thinking about ways that they could increase their tuition as well to raise funds. UW-Stout was the first to take action. UW-River Falls is currently at the drawing board. This tuition flexibility encourages universities to say, "Come to UW-Stout where for only \$150 extra dollars, we provide you with hands-on learning experience!" and others to reply, "Forget about Stout, For a mere \$250 dollars extra, you as a student can utilize the latest and greatest technology at UW- Stevens Point." This action and reaction will continue and tuition will continue to sky rocket.

By allowing the UW System to grant differential tuition to UW campuses, you are taking the accountability away from those individual universities. Differential tuition allows universities to raise tuition instead of finding other ways of being fiscally responsible. Raising tuition is a quick way to raise funds and may be easier than strategizing other ways to acquire or reallocate money.

Finally, differential tuition hurts Wisconsin. As we all know, an educated population generally brings in more money, and therefore spends more money, which helps the economy of the state. As I stated earlier, further tuition increases prohibit too many students from receiving a higher education. If that student from Plover cannot attend the university that is closest to her, she will not be educated; she will not bring in as much income as she could if she had a college degree. Therefore she could not assist the economy to the extent that she could if universities were not allowed to out-price each other. As we all know, an educated population equals a stable, growing, and flourishing economy. If we do not keep higher education affordable in Wisconsin, our economy will undoubtedly suffer in the future.

I urge you to deny the UW-System the power to grant differential tuition to our state colleges. We need to encourage the UW-System to remain just that- a system of sister institutions that are working together to educate the students of our state and nation, not a hodge-podge of colleges that are competing for students and their money. We also need to keep education affordable for us- the students. We are the future of the state and the nation. We have the desire to be educated, but many of us will not acquire our degrees at the rate tuition is increasing. We simply cannot afford it. We then will be less beneficial to our economy- and that is something that Wisconsin cannot afford.





# *Wisconsin Valley Library Service*

*A Multitype Library System*

300 First Street • Wausau, WI 54403 • (715) 847-5549

April 10, 1997

TO: Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee  
FROM: Linda Orcutt, Technology Consultant, WVLS  
RE: Provisions for public library funding in the 1997-1999  
proposed Wisconsin budget

I would first like to take this opportunity to welcome this committee to Wausau and thank you for having this hearing here. It is nice to see you in the central part of the state.

The 1997-'99 budget as proposed by Gov. Thompson does not include any increase in public library system funding for the biennium. If that proposal is passed as presented it will mean 5 consecutive years of library system funding at the same dollar amount. In reality it means that systems are losing the ability to provide the services to their member libraries which are mandated by the state. At the same time, there have been reductions of funding and corresponding services at the state level. To compensate for the state level reductions, DLCL has been requiring more services from the systems. Public library systems can neither continue to provide quality services to their members nor can they continue to absorb tasks that used to be done on the state level without funding increases.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has proposed increases in state aids to public library systems to equal 11.5% of local and county operating expenditures for public library services for this biennial budget. WVLS supports that proposal and asks that this committee seriously consider this means of increasing system aids and insuring predictable funding increases in the future.

The Governor's proposed budget also transfers the Educational Technology Board (Pioneering Partners program) funding to the TEACH Wisconsin program. Just as Wisconsin librarians were beginning to take advantage of the opportunity for ETB grants, it is proposed that this supplemental source of technology funding for public libraries be eliminated. The corollary to that is that public libraries were not included in the Governor's TEACH Wisconsin proposal. That means that the \$500 million proposal is designated for less than 20% of the population while 80% of the population (including all of the eligible voters) is total ignored. You are sending the message that the technology needs of the general public are of no concern to you.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has proposed a supplementary technology improvement aid program for public libraries. State aid under this program could only be used for local library technology systems, site licenses for electronic databases and the linkage of information systems. The cost of this program for the first year of the biennium has been set at \$10,825,000 with an additional \$950,000 in the second year of the biennium. WVLS supports this proposal and urges this committee to seriously consider adopting this proposal.

The Legislative Council Special Committee on Public Libraries has also proposed a state incentive program for nonresident borrowing. The current library system law states that all libraries which are members of the same library system must serve residents of the system area who have a valid borrowers card from their home library on the same basis as they serve their own residents. In many communities around the state this creates a hardship on the municipal library because a disproportionate number of patrons come from outside of the municipality which has established the library. The libraries are required to serve all of those people without getting any kind of reimbursement. In one case this funding problem was a significant contributing factor to a county withdrawing from one system and joining another. After that was done, the library could charge people walking in to use the library because they were residents of counties in a different library system.

This proposal would reimburse libraries \$.50 for each item they circulate to people who reside outside of the library's primary service area. This amount of \$.50 per circ is still far less than the actual cost per circ in libraries throughout the state. The cost of this program in fiscal year 1998 is estimated to be about \$7.5 million and about \$7.7 million in fiscal year 1999. This program would be a beginning step toward recognizing that municipalities should not be expected to cover the costs of serving a significant volume of people from outside of the municipality that supports the library. With that in mind, WVLS supports this proposal. If this proposal or one similar to it is not passed, the alternative solution would be to allow public libraries to charge all non-residents. That would give libraries the flexibility they need to help control costs and not put any additional burden on the state budget. This would be an acceptable temporary alternative to WVLS. Our ultimate goal is for the state to reimburse libraries for serving non-residents because library systems are a creation of the state and any library that wants to remain a system member must serve non-residents, i.e. it is another unfunded mandate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. Are there any questions?

**LAND INFORMATION  
ONEIDA COUNTY**

**P.O. Box 400  
One Courthouse Square, Room 6  
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-0400**

April 10, 1997

Memo to: Members of the Joint Finance Committee  
Brian Burke & Scott Jensen, Co-Chairs  
Sheryl Albers, G. Spencer Coggs, Robert Cowle, Russell  
Decker, Gary George, Sheila Harsdorf, Robert Jauch, Dean  
Kaufert, Barbara Linton, Thomas Ourada, Mary Panzer,  
Cloyd Porter, Kevin Shibilski, Joseph Winecke

From: Michael J Romportl  
Oneida County Land Information Officer

RE: Budget Bill pertaining to Wisconsin Land Information  
Board and Land Council

Oneida County is extremely concerned with the language in the budget bill which creates the Wisconsin Land Council, eliminates the Wisconsin Land Information Board (WLIB) and puts the Wisconsin Land Information Program under the Department of Administration (DOA) tied to the Council. We feel this will have detrimental effects on the Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP) which the WLIB currently oversees.

In Section 97 of the budget bill, 16.023 lists the functions of the Wisconsin Land Council which focuses on issues pertaining to land use. Oneida County is not opposed to land use planning or the Council, however, we view land use as a 'user' of land records and not the 'creator' of land records. The WLIP concentrates on creating a broad set of land records which can be shared and used by many entities and for many purposes.

We feel if the WLIP is placed directly under DOA and tied to the Council, land use will emerge as the priority issue and creation of land records will be severely impacted. This is evidenced by Section 675 of the budget bill 20.505(1)(ie) which allows for funds to be drained away from the WLIP and directs it to the Council.

Oneida County urges the committee to remove all parts of the budget bill which eliminates the WLIP & WLIB and shifts the duties of WLIB to the DOA. We recommend that the WLIP & WLIB remains intact as it is currently defined in the statutes and that the proposed budget bill is amended to insure its independent continuation.

Oneida County does not oppose the creation of an independent land council, but urges the Administration to work with WLIB and the Wisconsin Land Information Association (WLIA) to resolve the budget bill language and concentrate on how information from the WLIP can be used to support land use planning in Wisconsin. Land use is a very contentious issue and we do not want to jeopardize the WLIP with the political implications of land use planning.

Wisconsin has the **most successful statewide** effort of land records modernization, integration and cooperation in the nation and has been recognized in several national publications. This is due to bi-partisan legislation passed 7 years ago which provides incentives and funds to local governments for upgrading their land records. Lets keep this program operating as it is.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this very important issue.

cc: Senator Roger Breske  
Representative Joe Handrick

## **School To Work Changes**

Good morning. My name is Debbie Meyer from Colby, Wisconsin. I am currently serving as the 1996-97 Wisconsin State FFA Treasurer and a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Today I would like to express my concerns towards two issues:

- the proposed definition of School to Work
- the transfer of an important program, School to Work, from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Force Development.

My first concern is the proposed definition of School to Work. This proposed definition creates limitations on the school-based learning and focuses only on the work-based learning. By limiting the school-based learning, we limit students in grades K-8, only high school students will be given this opportunity. The current definition allows school to work opportunities for all students, in all schools, and in all districts.

With the proposed definition funds will be limited to teachers and students in grades K-8. Eventually, teachers will not receive adequate training and updated information about career education. Therefore, in the long run teaching staff in grades K-8 may put less emphasis on this area.

I consider this a disadvantage because I made my career choice in the 6th grade. We were given an assignment in which we had to choose a career that interested us and then interview someone in that related workforce. I did my research on accounting. Actually, from that point on I did all my research and papers on accounting. Today, my goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant. If the resources and training are limited to the teaching staff in grades K-8, I may not have done that report because less emphasis may have been put on career education. I could have entered college with an "undecided major."

As far as the Vocational Student Organizations, they also play a major role in especially the middle school and junior high programs. Under the proposed definition of School to Work, funds will be limited towards these middle school and junior high VSO programs.

As an individual with five years of experience in VSOs, like FFA and FBLA, I find this as a major disadvantage. There is so much leadership gained from these organizations that it cannot be replaced with other solutions. Now I have not had the opportunity to be a part of a

middle school or junior high VSO program. But this year serving as a State FFA Officer has made me aware of schools with these programs. Basically, students in these middle school and junior high programs are offered the same opportunities as the high school level. Now you may ask, why can't we limit these funds and really focus on the high school students? Well, then why can't we start teaching math classes, for example, in high school instead of kindergarten? I consider your leadership skills equally important as your basic math classes. Why? Because that is what employers are looking for. In the fall, I had the opportunity to have a mock interview with a banker. One of the comments he repeated to me several times during the interview was that employers are more concerned with your leadership and people skills than your GPA. You can look up facts and figures, not personal and group leadership skills. This is what the VSOs are teaching young students. Why not start them at an early age as well?

Currently, Wisconsin is the leader in Vocational Student Organizations. All organizations are large and very competitive at the national level. The current membership of the Wisconsin FFA is 16,000 members. At the 69th National FFA Convention in Kansas City last November, there were hundreds of members from the state of Wisconsin competing and participating in contests at the national level. Let's not jeopardize the quality of FFA, of Vocational Student Organizations in the state of Wisconsin.

My second concern was transferring the School to Work program from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Forces Development. Even though this change consolidates activities into one agency, it removes leadership, support, and coordination provided by the Department of Public Instruction. The school-based learning will be lost. If businesses are complaining because of poor employee quality, then where will the education of good employees come in? The school-based learning provides students with that education. They are taught those skills necessary to be successful leaders in the workforce. Teacher training, curriculum writing, and student assessment are all components of School to Work, and are education responsibilities, not workforce development responsibilities.

I hope you take into consideration the points I have brought attention to concerning the proposed definition of School to Work and the transfer from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Work Forces Development. Remember, the students are **your** future. How do **you** want to prepare them for the career opportunities they come in contact with?